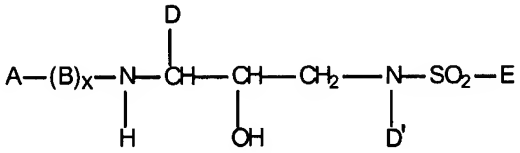
**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims[1]:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein:

A is selected from the group consisting of $-R^1$-$C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_4$ alkoxy, $-NR^2$-CO-$N(R^2)(R^2)$ and -CO-$N(R^2)(R^2)$;

each $R^1$ is independently selected from the group consisting of -C(O)-, $-S(O)_2$-, -C(O)-C(O)-, -O-C(O)-, $-O-S(O)_2$, $-NR^2$-$S(O)_2$-, $-NR^2$-C(O)- and $-NR^2$-C(O)-C(O)-;

[1] The amendments recited in the Listing of Claims are the same amendments that were presented in applicant's March 23, 2007 Reply.

~~each Het is independently selected from the group consisting of $C_3$-$C_7$ cycloalkyl; $C_5$-$C_7$ cycloalkenyl; $C_6$-$C_{10}$ aryl; and 5-7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, containing one heteroatom selected from N, $N(R^2)$, O, S and $S(O)_n$, wherein said heterocycle may optionally be benzofused; and wherein any member of said Het may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, $-OR^2$, $-R^2$, $-N(R^2)(R^2)$, $-R^2$-OH, -CN, $-CO_2R^2$, $-C(O)-N(R^2)(R^2)$, $-S(O)_2-N(R^2)(R^2)$, $-N(R^2)-C(O)-R_2$, $-C(O)-R^2$, $-S(O)_n-R^2$, $-OCF_3$, $-S(O)_n-Ar$, methylenedioxy, $-N(R^2)-S(O)_2(R^2)$, halo, $-CF_3$, $-NO_2$, Ar and -O-Ar;~~

each $R^2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of H and $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl optionally substituted with Ar; with the proviso that when $R^2$ is $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl substituted with Ar, said Ar may not be substituted with an Ar-containing moiety;

B, when present, is $-N(R^2)-C(R^3)(R^3)-C(O)-$;

x is 0 or 1;

each $R^3$ is independently selected from the group consisting of H, Het, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl and $C_5$-$C_6$ cycloalkenyl, wherein any member of said $R^3$, except H, may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of $-OR^2$, $-C(O)-NH-R^2$, $-S(O)_n-N(R^2)(R^2)$, Het, -CN, $-SR^2$, $-CO_2R^2$, $NR^2-C(O)-R^2$;

each n is independently 1 or 2;

D and D' are independently selected from the group consisting of Ar; $C_1$-

$C_4$ alkyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl, -$OR_2$, -$R^3$, -O-Ar and Ar; $C_2$-$C_4$ alkenyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl, -$OR^2$, -$R^3$, -O-Ar and Ar; $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl, which may be optionally substituted with or fused with Ar; and $C_5$-$C_6$ cycloalkenyl, which may be optionally substituted with or fused with Ar;

each Ar is independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl; 3-6 membered carbocyclic ring, wherein said carbocyclic ring may be saturated or unsaturated and optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of oxo, -$OR^2$, -$R^2$, -$N(R^2)(R^2)$, -$N(R^2)$-C(O)-$R^2$, $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl substituted with -OH and optionally substituted with Ar, -CN, -$CO_2R^2$, -C(O)-$N(R^2)(R^2)$, halo and -$CF_3$;

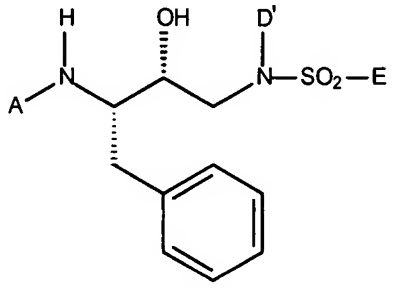
E is selected from the group consisting of Het; O-Het; Het-Het; -O-$R^3$; -$NR^2R^3$; $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of $R^4$ and Het; $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of $R^4$ and Het; $C_3$-$C_6$ saturated carbocycle, which may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of $R^4$ and Het; and $C_5$-$C_6$ unsaturated carbocycle, which may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of $R^4$ and Het; ~~and~~

each Het is independently selected from the group consisting of $C_3$-$C_7$

cycloalkyl; $C_5$-$C_7$ cycloalkenyl; $C_6$-$C_{10}$ aryl; and 5-7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, containing one heteroatom selected from N, N($R^2$), O, S and $S(O)_n$, wherein said heterocycle may optionally be benzofused; and wherein any member of said Het may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, -$OR^2$, -$R^2$, -N($R^2$)($R^2$), -$R^2$-OH, -CN, -$CO_2R^2$, -C(O)-N($R^2$)($R^2$), -$S(O)_2$-N($R^2$)($R^2$), -N($R^2$)-C(O)-$R_2$, -C(O)-$R^2$, -$S(O)_n$-$R^2$, -$OCF_3$, -$S(O)_n$-Ar, methylenedioxy, -N($R^2$)-$S(O)_2$($R^2$), halo, -$CF_3$, -$NO_2$, Ar and -O-Ar; and

each $R^4$ is independently selected from the group consisting of -$OR^2$, -C(O)-$NHR^2$, -$S(O)_2$-$NHR^2$, halo, -$NR^2$-C(O)-$R^2$ and -CN.

Claim 2 (original): The compound according to claim 1, characterized in that said compound has the structure of formula XXII:

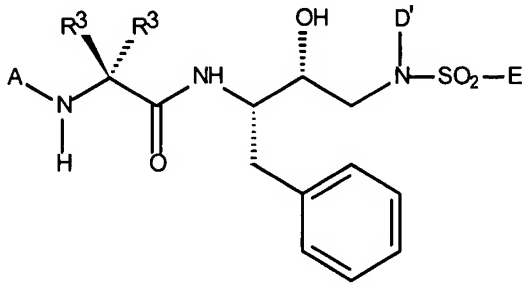



(XXII)

and A, D' and E are defined as in claim 1.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original): The compound according to claim 1, characterized in that said compound has the structure of formula XXXI:




(XXXI)

and A, $R^3$, D' and E are defined as in claim 1.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A compound of formula I, wherein:

A is selected from the group consisting of -$R^1$-$C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, $C_1$-$C_4$ alkoxy;

each $R^1$ is independently selected from the group consisting of -C(O)-, -$S(O)_2$-, -C(O)-C(O)-, -O-CO-, -O-$S(O)_2$- and -$NR^2$-$S(O)_2$-;

~~each Het is independently selected from the group consisting of $C_3$-$C_7$~~

~~cycloalkyl; $C_5$-$C_7$-cycloalkenyl; $C_6$-$C_{10}$-aryl; and 5-7-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, containing one heteroatom selected from N, O and S, which may optionally be benzofused; wherein any member of said Het may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, $-OR^2$, $-R^2$, $-N(R^2)_2$, $-R^2$-OH, -CN, $-CO_2R^2$, $-C(O)-N(R^2)_2$ and $-S(O)_2-N(R^2)_2$;~~

each $R^2$ is independently selected from the group consisting of H and $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl;

B, when present, is $-NH-CH(R^3)-C(O)-$;

x is 0 or 1;

$R^3$ is selected from the group consisting of Het, $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl and $C_5$-$C_6$ cycloalkenyl, wherein any member of said $R^3$ may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of $-OR^2$, $-C(O)-NH-R^2$, $-S(O)_n-N(R^2)_2$, Het and -CN;

n is 1 or 2;

D and D' are independently selected from the group consisting of Ar; $C_1$-$C_4$ alkyl, which may be optionally substituted with $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl or Ar; $C_2$-$C_4$ alkenyl, which may be optionally substituted with $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl or Ar; $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl, which may be optionally substituted or fused with Ar; and $C_5$-$C_6$ cycloalkenyl, which may be optionally substituted or fused with Ar;

Ar is selected from the group consisting of phenyl; 3-6 membered

carbocyclic ring wherein said carbocyclic ring may be saturated or unsaturated and optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of oxo, $-OR^2$, $-R^2$, $-N(R^2)_2$, $-N(R^2)-C(O)R^2$, $-R^2-OH$, -CN, $-CO_2R^2$, $-C(O)-N(R^2)_2$, halo and $-CF_3$;

E is selected from the group consisting of Het; $-O-R^3$; $-NR^2R^5$; $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more $R^4$ or Het; $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, which may be optionally substituted with one or more $R^4$ or Het; $C_3$-$C_6$ saturated carbocycle, which may optionally be substituted with one or more $R^4$ or Het; and $C_5$-$C_6$ unsaturated carbocycle, which may optionally be substituted with one or more $R^4$ or Het;

each Het is independently selected from the group consisting of $C_3$-$C_7$ cycloalkyl; $C_5$-$C_7$ cycloalkenyl; $C_6$-$C_{10}$ aryl; and 5-7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, containing one heteroatom selected from N, O and S, which may optionally be benzofused; wherein any member of said Het may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, $-OR^2$, $-R^2$, $-N(R^2)_2$, $-R^2-OH$, -CN, $-CO_2R^2$, $-C(O)-N(R^2)_2$ and $-S(O)_2-N(R^2)_2$;

each $R^4$ is independently selected from the group consisting of $-OR^2$, $-C(O)-NHR^2$, $-S(O)_2-NHR^2$, halo and -CN; and

each $R^5$ is independently selected from the group consisting of H and $R^3$.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): The compound according to claim 1, wherein:

$R^3$ is selected from the group consisting of $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, $C_2$-$C_6$ alkenyl, $C_5$-

$C_6$ cycloalkyl, $C_5$-$C_6$ cycloalkenyl and a 5-6 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, wherein any member of said $R^3$ may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of $-OR^2$, $-C(O)-NH-R^2$, $-S(O)_nN(R^2)(R^2)$, Het, -CN, $-SR^2$, $-C(O)_2R^2$, $NR^2-C(O)-R^2$; and

D' is selected from the group consisting of $C_1$-$C_3$ alkyl and $C_3$ alkenyl, wherein said alkyl or alkenyl may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of $C_3$-$C_6$ cycloalkyl, $-OR^2$, -O-Ar and Ar.

Claims 8-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (original): The compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound has a molecular weight less than or equal to about 700 g/mol.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The compound according to claim 11, wherein said compound has a molecular weight less than or equal to about 600 g/mol.

Claims 13-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A method of using a compound according to any one of claims 1-2, 4-5 or 7 as a therapeutic agent against viral infection, said virus requiring an aspartyl protease for an obligatory life cycle event.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 18, wherein said virus is HIV-1, HIV-2, or HTLV.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A method of inhibiting enzymatic activity in an aspartyl protease comprising the step of contacting the aspartyl protease with a compound according to any one of claims 1-2, 4-5 or 7.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 20, wherein said aspartyl protease is HIV protease.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A method for preventing HIV infection in a mammal comprising the step of administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-2, 4-5 or 7.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A method for treating HIV infection in a mammal comprising the step of administering to said mammal a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-2, 4-5 or 7.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 22 or 23, wherein said step of administering comprises oral administration or administration by injection.

Claims 25-27 (canceled).